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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **WESTERN DIVISION**

11 CECIL ELMORE Jr,

12 Plaintiff,

13 v.

14 STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY;  
15 STARBUCKS CORPORATION;  
16 DOE 1

17 Defendant.

Case No. 2:24-cv-10259 FLA  
(BFMx)

Consolidated with Case No. 2:25-  
cv-00768 FLA (BFMx)

**PROTECTIVE ORDER**

18 **1. GENERAL**

19 1.1 Purposes and Limitations. Discovery in this action is likely to involve  
20 production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special  
21 protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting  
22 this litigation may be warranted. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not  
23 confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the  
24 protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited  
25 information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable  
26 legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below,  
27 that this Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under  
28 seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the

standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

1.2 Good Cause Statement. This action is likely to involve trade secrets, customer and pricing lists and other valuable research, development, commercial, financial, technical and/or proprietary information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of, among other things, confidential business or financial information, confidential police reports, records and information related to the subject incident, information regarding confidential business practices, or other confidential research, development, or commercial information and surveillance (including information implicating privacy rights of third parties, to include employees and customers, including minors), information otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this matter. Information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

2.1 Action: This pending federal consolidated lawsuit captioned *Cecil Elmore, Jr. v. Starbucks Coffee Company, et al.*, Case No. 2:24-cv-10259 FLA (BFMx), previously consolidated with Case No. 2:25-cv-00768 FLA(BFMx).

1           2.2    Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation  
2 of information or items under this Order.

3           2.3    “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of  
4 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection  
5 under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the Good  
6 Cause Statement.

7           2.4    Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their  
8 support staff).

9           2.5    Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or  
10 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as  
11 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

12           2.6    Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless  
13 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,  
14 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or  
15 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

16           2.7    Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter  
17 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as  
18 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

19           2.8    House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.  
20 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside  
21 counsel.

22           2.9    Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or  
23 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

24           2.10   Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party  
25 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have  
26 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm that  
27 has appeared on behalf of that party, including support staff.

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2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors, employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in this Action.

2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

### **3. SCOPE**

The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

### **4. DURATION**

Once a case proceeds to trial, all of the court-filed information to be introduced that was previously designated as confidential or maintained pursuant to this protective order becomes public and will be presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of the trial. See Kamakana v. City and Cty. of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir.

2006) (distinguishing “good cause” showing for sealing documents produced in discovery from “compelling reasons” standard when merits-related documents are part of court record). Accordingly, the terms of this protective order do not extend beyond the commencement of the trial.

**5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

**5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.**

Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

If it comes to a Designating Party’s attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

**5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations.** Except as otherwise provided in this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

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1 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

2 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic  
3 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial  
4 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix, at a minimum, the legend  
5 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that  
6 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page  
7 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected  
8 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

9 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection  
10 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated  
11 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and  
12 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be  
13 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents  
14 it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,  
15 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing  
16 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL  
17 legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions  
18 of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly  
19 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the  
20 margins).

21 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify  
22 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition.

23 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and  
24 for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on  
25 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend  
26 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants  
27 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected  
28 portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

**6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court's Scheduling Order.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process under Local Rule 37-1, et seq. Any discovery motion must strictly comply with the procedures set forth in Local Rules 37-1, 37-2, and 37-3.

6.3 Burden. The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

**7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

(a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the Court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff;

(f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the Court. Pages of transcribed



1 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be  
2 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as  
3 permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

4 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,  
5 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

6 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**  
7 **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

8 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation  
9 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as  
10 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

11 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall  
12 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

13 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to  
14 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena  
15 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of  
16 this Stipulated Protective Order; and

17 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued  
18 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

19 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with  
20 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action  
21 as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena  
22 or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The  
23 Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court  
24 of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions should be construed as  
25 authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to disobey a lawful  
26 directive from another court.

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1 **9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**  
2 **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

3 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-  
4 Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information  
5 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the  
6 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be  
7 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

8 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce  
9 a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an  
10 agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential  
11 information, then the Party shall:

12 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party  
13 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement  
14 with a Non-Party;

15 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated  
16 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably  
17 specific description of the information requested; and

18 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-  
19 Party, if requested.

20 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this Court within 14  
21 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may  
22 produce the Non-Party’s confidential information responsive to the discovery request.  
23 If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce  
24 any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality  
25 agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the Court. Absent a court  
26 order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
27 protection in this Court of its Protected Material.

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1 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed  
3 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this  
4 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in  
5 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts  
6 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or  
7 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,  
8 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and  
9 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

10 **11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**  
11 **PROTECTED MATERIAL**

12 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain  
13 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,  
14 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil  
15 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure  
16 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior  
17 privilege review.

18 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

19 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any  
20 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

21 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. No Party waives any right it otherwise  
22 would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any  
23 ground not addressed in this Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right  
24 to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this  
25 Protective Order.

26 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any  
27 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may  
28 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific

1 Protected Material at issue; good cause must be shown in the request to file under  
2 seal. If a Party's request to file Protected Material under seal is denied by the Court,  
3 then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record unless  
4 otherwise instructed by the Court.

5 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

6 After the final disposition of this Action, within 60 days of a written request by  
7 the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the  
8 Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected  
9 Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other  
10 format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected  
11 Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written  
12 certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the  
13 Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where  
14 appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed, and (2) affirms  
15 that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations,  
16 summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material.  
17 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all  
18 pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda,  
19 correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product,  
20 and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected  
21 Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material  
22 remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

1 **14. VIOLATION OF ORDER**

2 Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate  
3 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary  
4 sanctions.

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6 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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8 DATED: December 10, 2025



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BRIANNA FULLER MIRCHEFF  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE